

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A firefighting apparatus comprising:
2 a vehicle;
3 a tank configured to carry a firefighting agent; and
4 a storage structure movable between a raised position above the tank
5 and a lowered position.
- 1 2. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the storage structure extends
2 beyond a rear of the vehicle in the lowered position.
- 1 3. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the storage structure extends along
2 a top of the vehicle when in the raised position.
- 1 4. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the storage structure moves along a
2 linear axis from the raised position to the lowered position.
- 1 5. The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein the linear axis is inclined.
- 1 6. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the storage structure moves along
2 an inclined linear axis for at least a portion of time while moving between the raised
3 position and the lowered position.
- 1 7. The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein the linear axis is between about 20
2 degrees and about 45 degrees relative to horizontal.
- 1 8. The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein the linear axis is between about 20
2 degrees and about 30 degrees relative to horizontal.
- 1 9. The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the linear axis is about 25 degrees
2 relative to horizontal.
- 1 10. The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein the linear axis is at least 20 degrees
2 relative to horizontal.

1 11. The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein the linear axis is no greater than
2 about 30 degrees relative to horizontal.

1 12. The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein the storage structure is configured
2 to be in a substantially horizontal orientation while moving between the raised
3 position and the lowered position.

1 13. The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein the storage structure includes a bed
2 floor and a compartment below the bed floor.

1 14. The apparatus of Claim 1 including a powered actuator configured to
2 move the storage structure between the raised position and the lowered position.

1 15. The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein the powered actuator includes:
2 a motor;
3 a screw rotatably driven by the motor; and
4 a follower coupled to the storage structure and in engagement with the
5 worm gear.

1 16. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the storage structure has a lower
2 most floor no greater than 15 inches above ground when in the lowered position.

1 17. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the storage structure has an upper
2 most floor no greater than 50 inches above ground when in the lowered position.

1 18. The apparatus of Claim 1 including an inclined guide configured to
2 guide movement of the storage structure between the raised position and the lowered
3 position.

1 19. The apparatus of Claim 18, wherein the guide includes an outwardly
2 facing surface and wherein the apparatus includes an interface having a pad slidably
3 engaging the surface.

1 20. The apparatus of Claim 18, wherein the guide includes a first upwardly
2 facing surface and wherein the apparatus includes an interface having at least one first
3 roller engaging the first surface.

1 21. The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein the guide includes a secondly
2 downwardly facing surface and wherein the apparatus includes an interface having at
3 least one second roller engaging the second surface.

1 22. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the storage structure includes a bed
2 floor and wherein the apparatus further includes at least one reel rotatably supported
3 by the storage structure below the bed floor.

1 23. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the storage structure moves along
2 an inclined linear axis between the raised position and the lowered position and
3 wherein the tank has an inclined outer surface along the axis.

1 24. The apparatus of Claim 23 including a guide configured to guide
2 movement of the storage structure between the raised position and the lowered
3 position.

1 25. The apparatus of Claim 24 including a support elevating the guide,
2 wherein the tank extends at least 180 degrees about the support.

1 26. The apparatus of Claim 24, wherein the inclined surface includes a
2 channel at least partially receiving the guide.

1 27. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the storage structure laterally
2 projects beyond the guide.

1 28. The apparatus of Claim 27 including at least one accessory carried by
2 the storage structure on at least one lateral side of the guide.

1 29. The apparatus of Claim 23, wherein the inclined surface includes at
2 least one recess into which other components of the apparatus are received.

1 30. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the storage structure includes a
2 substantially horizontal floor portion and an inclined floor portion extending from the
3 horizontal floor portion.

1 31. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the storage structure is configured
2 to store hose.

1 32. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the tank is configured to hold at
2 least 300 gallons of firefighting agent.

1 33. The storage structure of Claim 1, wherein the storage structure has a
2 length of at least about 60 inches.

1 34. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the storage structure projects at
2 least 60 inches from a rear of the vehicle when in the lowered position.

1 35. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the storage structure includes a
2 perforated floor.

1 36. A firefighting apparatus comprising:
2 a vehicle having a rear; and
3 a storage structure movable along an inclined axis between a raised
4 position forward the rear of the vehicle and a lowered position.

1 37. The apparatus of Claim 36, wherein the storage structure is supported
2 in a substantially horizontal orientation while moving between the raised position and
3 the lowered position.

1 38. The apparatus of Claim 36, wherein the storage structure projects
2 beyond a rear of the vehicle when in the lowered position.

1 39. The apparatus of Claim 38, wherein the storage structure extends along
2 a top of the vehicle when in the raised position.

1 40. The apparatus of Claim 36, wherein the storage structure extends along
2 a top of the vehicle when in the raised position.

1 41. The apparatus of Claim 36 including a tank configured to contain a
2 firefighting agent, wherein the storage structure is higher than the tank when in the
3 raised position.

1 42. The apparatus of Claim 36 including a powered actuator configured to
2 move the storage structure between the raised position and the lowered position.

1 43. The apparatus of Claim 42, wherein the powered actuator includes:
2 a motor;
3 a screw rotatably driven by the motor; and
4 a follower coupled to the storage structure and in engagement with the
5 screw.

1 44. The apparatus of Claim 36, wherein the linear axis is between 20
2 degrees and about 30 degrees relative to horizontal.

1 45. The apparatus of Claim 36, wherein the linear axis is at least 20
2 degrees relative to horizontal.

1 46. The apparatus of Claim 36, wherein the linear axis is no greater than
2 about 30 degrees relative to horizontal.

1 47. The apparatus of Claim 36, wherein the storage structure has an open
2 exposed top when in the raised position.

1 48. A vehicular storage system for a vehicle, the system comprising:
2 an inclined guide configured to be coupled to a vehicle;
3 a storage structure coupled to the guide and configured to move along
4 the guide while maintaining a substantially horizontal orientation.

1 49. The system of Claim 48 including an actuator configured to move the
2 storage structure along the guide.

1 50. The system of Claim 49, wherein the actuator includes:
2 a motor;
3 a screw rotatably driven by the motor; and
4 a follower coupled to the storage structure and in engagement with the
5 screw.

1 51. The system of Claim 50, wherein the guide includes an outwardly
2 facing surface and wherein the storage structure includes a pad slidably engaging the
3 surface.

1 52. The system of Claim 50, wherein the guide includes a first upwardly
2 facing surface and wherein the storage structure includes at least one first roller
3 engaging the first surface.

1 53. The system of Claim 52, wherein the guide includes a second
2 downwardly facing surface and wherein the storage structure includes at least one
3 second roller engaging the second surface.

1 54. The system of Claim 48, wherein the storage structure includes an
2 uncovered bed and a compartment suspended below the bed.

1 55. The system of Claim 48, wherein the guide extends along a linear axis
2 of between 20 degrees and 45 degrees relative to horizontal.

1 56. The system of Claim 48, wherein the storage structure laterally
2 projects beyond both sides of the guide.

1 57. The system of Claim 48, wherein the guide extends along a linear axis
2 of between 20 degrees and 30 degrees relative to horizontal.

1 58. The system of Claim 48, wherein the guide extends along a linear axis
2 of at least 20 degrees relative to horizontal.

1 59. The system of Claim 48, wherein the guide extends along a linear axis
2 of no greater than 45 degrees relative to horizontal.

1 60. A method of storing hose on a firefighting vehicle, the method
2 comprising:
3 moving a floor, upon which hose is resting, along an inclined axis
4 between a raised position in which the floor is forward a rear of the vehicle and a
5 lowered position in which the floor projects beyond the rear of the vehicle.

1 61. A method for storing hose on a firefighting vehicle, the method
2 comprising:
3 moving a floor, upon which hose is resting, along an inclined axis
4 between a raised position in which the floor extends over a tank of the vehicle and a
5 lowered position in which the floor extends below a top of the tank of the vehicle.

1 62. A firefighting apparatus comprising:
2 a vehicle;
3 means for supporting a hose; and
4 means for guiding movement of the supporting means along an
5 inclined axis between a raised position in which the supporting means is forward a
6 rear of the vehicle and a lowered position in which the supporting means projects
7 beyond the rear of the vehicle.